

THE CENSUS BILL OCCUPIES HOUSE

Question of Civil Service for Employees Causes Hot Discussion.

MR. SLAYDEN WOULD
SHOW INTERMARRIAGE

Mr. Crumpacker, However, Believed Such Inquiries Would Be "Objectionable and Unsafe," and the Amendment Was Lost—Little Business in Senate.

W—The House of Representatives to-day resumed consideration of the bill to provide for the thirteenth and subsequent decennial censuses. The consideration of it led to a discussion of the civil service. This came up on an amendment offered by Mr. Gillett, of Massachusetts, the effect of which would be to exclude from the non-competitive examination required as a basis of appointment "persons who are assistants, messengers, engin boys, watchmen, unskilled laborers and charwomen." Mr. Gillett took occasion to condemn the present plan of appointing clerks in the census offices by non-competitive examination. He said that such a system could never be competitive and not mere farce. The system of appointments prevailing heretofore, and which it is proposed to continue, of determining the fitness of an applicant and then leaving it to the judgment of the commission to select, was the selection regardless of the ratings obtained, was defended by Mr. Crumpacker, of Indiana.

service reform associations and the census clerks were talking about when they wanted the temporary census clerks appointed in the regular way.

"Why?" inquired Mr. Suiser, who elicited the answer that the salaries were small and the period of appointment short.

High School Boys in Congress.

In the course of some further remarks, Mr. Suiser said that not competitive examinations simply were a return to "the old spoils system." This furnished a cue for Mr. Robinson of Arkansas, who, in opposing the bill, vehemently declared that the "spoils system" had obtained in large degree in the days of Andrew Jackson, "and has obtained in large degree during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt." He suggested that that doctrine should be repudiated and applied at the same time. If Representatives, he said, should be elected by the people, then the high school boys would have seats in Congress.

system prevailed now. Mr. Robinson mentioned the recent appointment of Daniel Keefe, as Commissioner of Immigration.

Mr. Haysburn trained his batteries on Mr. Gillett, who, he said, was even trying to emaculate the bill and protect members from importunities about the possible wrongs that might result therefrom. "Why not protect the membership of the House," he asked, "from the temptation to indulge in spoliation of the government?"

Mr. Haysburn said the civil service had effected no improvement, and the men he had had appointed twenty-four years ago were to-day better clerks than those the Civil Service Commission was providing.

The argument in favor of that service, he said, was "simply a cowardly attempt to avoid the responsibility of making the regulars better."

The amendment was lost 65 to 119.

Would Show Intermarriage.

Strenuous objection was advanced by Mr. Crumpacker to an amendment by Mr. Slayden (Texas), providing for the inclusion in the school system of the population of the states showing intermarriage of whites and negroes and of persons of European and Asiatic origin. Mr. Crumpacker believed such inquiries would be very objectionable and unsafe.

Mr. Slayden and Mr. Randall (Texas) were equally vigorous in supporting the amendment. "If a white man married a negro," remarked Mr. Randall,

no better than the one he married." The amendment was lost, 37 to 43.

Mr. Lamb (Virginia) obtained the passage of an amendment providing that population statistics shall designate the surviving members of the Confederate families and the Union Army.

Ten thousand dollars will be appropriated by Congress to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct experiments to determine the practicability of making paper material out of cotton stalks, if a bill introduced by the House to amend the representatives Sheppard of Texas, is passed.

To Establish Tariff Commission.

A bill providing for the establishment of a tariff commission of seven

all imports was introduced in the House of Representatives to-day by Representative Fowler, of New Jersey. It provides that Congress shall make a tariff schedule, with rates, and the rates which the commission would fix would be within limits. Each member of the commission would be selected to serve a term of fourteen years.

A bill to increase the pay of all petty officers and enlisted men of the navy is provided for by a bill introduced in the House to-day by Representative Bates, of Pennsylvania. It also provides that the increase of pay shall be in steps at the end of each four years' service.

The only other business transacted was the reference to committee of notice of contest by H. C. Warmour, Republican, for the seat of Albert F. W. Strat, from the First Louisiana District.

At 4:55 P. M. the House adjourned in the Senate.

The session of the Senate to-day was chiefly devoted to the formal passage of the Senate report on the construction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time